

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13 /086 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2805

INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 7148

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PK, SA, SO

SUBJECT: SOMALI DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER VISIT TO PAKISTAN

REF: MOGADISCIO 1048

1. A FOUR MEMBER MILITARY DELEGATION FROM SOMALIA HEADED BY THE VICE-MINISTER FOR DEFENSE, BRIGADIER GENERAL OMAR HAJI MOHAMMAD, MADE A SIX-DAY "GOODWILL" VISIT TO PAKISTAN FROM JUNE 28 THROUGH JULY 4. DURING THEIR STAY IN PAKISTAN THE TEAM CALLED ON THE THEN PRIME MINISTER BMATTO, THE FOREIGN SECRETARY AND SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE MILITARY AND MINISTRY OF DEFENSE.

2. FROM PRESS ACCOUNTS OF THE VISIT THE TEAM APPEARED TO CONCENTRATE ON VISITS TO PAKISTAN'S MILITARY ACADEMIES AND TRAINING SCHOOLS WHICH FUELS SPECULATION WE HAVE HEARD THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE TEAM WAS TO OBTAIN "SLOTS" FOR SOMALIS IN PAKISTAN'S MILITARY TRAINING ESTABLISHMENTS. THE TEAM VISITED, AMONG OTHER PLACES, NAVAL HEADQUARTERS, SIGNALS SCHOOL, WAH ORDNANCE FACTORY, PAK AIR FORCE ACADEMY AT RISALPUR, WHERE THEY WERE BRIEFED ON THE TRAINING PROGRAM OF THE ACADEMY, THE MILITARY
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COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING, THE SCHOOL OF ARTILLERY, THE SCHOOL OF ARMOR, AND FINALLY THE PAK MILITARY ACADEMY AT KAKUL.

3. COMMENT: PAKISTAN HAS TRADITIONALLY RESERVED POSITIONS IN ITS MILITARY TRAINING INSTITUTIONS FOR CANDIDATES FROM OTHER MUSLIM COUNTRIES. WE UNDERSTAND THESE POSITIONS ARE EAGERLY SOUGHT AFTER BY THE OTHER ISLAMIC STATES AND THAT THE METHODS OF

INSTRUCTION AND COURSES TAUGHT AT PAKISTAN'S MILITARY SCHOOLS ARE CONSIDERED TO BE OF RELATIVELY HIGH STANDARDS. IT SEEMS LIKELY THEREFORE THAT ONE OF THE PURPOSES OF THE TEAM'S VISIT WAS TO ARRANGE FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF SOMALI STUDENTS AT SOME OF THESE INSTITUTIONS. IN VIEW OF PAKISTAN'S POLICY OF ALLOCATING POSITIONS FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS WE BELIEVE THAT IF THE SOMALIS HAVE REQUESTED POSITION, PAKISTAN WILL OBLIGE. THE POLICY HAS BEEN MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL IN THE PAST IN THAT IT HAS SERVED TO STRENGTHEN PAKISTAN'S TIES WITH ITS FELLOW MUSLIM COUNTRIES WHILE PROVIDING A FAIRLY HIGH STANDARD OF TRAINING TO THOSE COUNTRIES THAT HAVE SENT MILITARY STUDENTS TO PAKISTAN.

4. FOLLOWING THE MILITARY DELEGATION'S DEPARTURE, A SIX MEMBER SOMALI ECONOMIC DELEGATION HEADED BY MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIES, MOHAMMAD SHAIKH OSMAN, MADE A FIVE-DAY VISIT TO PAKISTAN COMMENCING JULY 8. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, DURING THEIR STAY THEY EXPLORED THE POSSIBILITIES OF COOPERATION IN ECONOMIC FIELDS, PARTICULARLY INDUSTRIES.
HUMMEL

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